

BEFORE THE POWER SITING BOARD OF THE STATE OF OHIO

**In the Matter of the Second Amendment Application of )**  
**Willowbrook Solar I, LLC to its Certificate of )**  
**Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for its ) Case No. 22-0115-EL-BGA**  
**Willowbrook Solar Farm )**

Members of the Board:

Chair, Public Utilities Commission	Ohio House of Representatives
Director, Department of Development	Ohio Senate
Director, Department of Health	
Director, Department of Agriculture	
Director, Environmental Protection Agency	
Director, Department of Natural Resources	
Public Member	

To the Honorable Power Siting Board:

Please review the attached Staff Report of Investigation, which has been filed in accordance with Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) rules. The application in this case is subject to an approval process as required by Section 4906.03 of the Ohio Revised Code (R.C.)

Sincerely,



Theresa White  
Executive Director  
Ohio Power Siting Board

## OPSB STAFF REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

**Project Name:** Willowbrook Solar Farm Second Amendment  
**Case Number:** 22-0115-EL-BGA (associated with prior case nos. 18-1024-EL-BGN, 21-0005-EL-BGA)  
**Project Location:** Highland and Brown counties  
**Applicant:** Willowbrook Solar I, LLC  
**Application Filing Date:** February 18, 2022  
**Inspection Date:** March 2, 2022  
**Report Date:** March 3, 2022  
**Applicant's Waiver Requests:** None  
**Staff Assigned:** G. Zeto

### Summary of Staff Recommendations (see discussion below):

Application: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Approval with Conditions  
Waiver: ☐ Approval ☐ Disapproval ☒ Not Applicable

### Application Description

#### *Background*

On April 4, 2019, the Ohio Power Siting Board (Board) issued a certificate (the Certificate) to Willowbrook Solar I, LLC (Applicant) in Case No. 18-1024-EL-BGN for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a solar-powered electric generation facility of up to 150 megawatts (MW) located in Concord and White Oak townships, Highland County, and Eagle Township, Brown County.

In Case No. 21-0005-EL-BGA, the Applicant proposed the addition of six privately owned parcels, totaling approximately 28 acres, to accommodate additional collection line routes. This amendment application included 1.9 miles of new collection line routes, 1.5 miles of which would be located in the project area presented in the original application. The Board issued an order granting the amendment to the Certificate on July 15, 2021.

#### *Project Description*

In this application, the Applicant proposes shifts in the locations of access roads, underground collection lines, and pyranometers, resulting in an overall consolidation of components. As proposed in this amendment, the total length of collection lines would decrease from 22.5 miles in the original application to 13.5 miles. The total length of access roads would decrease from 11.7 miles in the original application to 7.5 miles. A total of four pyranometers are proposed under this application, resulting in an overall decrease of two compared to the original application. The Applicant states that the purpose of shifting facility components is to avoid or reduce impacts to sensitive resources (e.g., cultural resources, delineated wetlands), minimize impacts to traffic,

improve safety by relocating access points off highways, and reduce land disturbance to the extent practicable. All facility shifts are within the originally certificated areas of disturbance.

## **Application Review**

### *Cultural Resources*

The Applicant has completed a Phase I Archaeological Survey. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) provided a letter dated October 1, 2021, indicating that the project would, as proposed in this amendment, avoid impacts to archeological resources. As the proposed changes to project components are at ground level or below, Staff finds that history/architecture impacts would also not increase.

### *Surface Waters*

The proposed access road layout would result in the crossing of one previously uncrossed intermittent stream. However, overall stream and wetland impacts would be reduced by the proposed changes in this application.

Adherence to the conditions of the Certificate, including implementation of the storm water pollution prevention plan, would minimize impacts to surface water resources that could occur as a result of the proposed modifications.

### *Listed Species*

The proposed modifications would not result in increased impacts to listed wildlife species. Adherence to the conditions of the Certificate would minimize impacts to listed species.

## **Recommended Findings**

Staff's review of the amendment application included consideration of the requirements listed in R.C. 4906.10. Based on Staff's review, the amendment application meets the necessary criteria for granting an amended certificate. Staff recommends that the Board approve the proposed amendment to the Certificate, provided that the following conditions are satisfied.

## **Conditions**

- (1) The Applicant shall continue to adhere to all conditions as certificated in Case No. 18-1024-EL-BGN, and initially amended in Case No. 21-0005-EL-BGA, as further amended through this application.

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
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**in**

**Case No(s). 22-0115-EL-BGA**

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation electronically filed by Mr. Matt Butler on  
behalf of Staff of OPSB